## IN THE CLAIMS:

A listing of the claims as they currently stand is provided below.

- 1-6. (Canceled).
- (Previously presented) A method for providing access control to a web server, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of machines pre-authorized to access the web server; associating with each pre-authorized machine an access table storing authorization information;

coupling one of the pre-authorized machines to an access requester; verifying that said requester is authorized to access a resource on the web server with reference to said access table associated with the pre-authorized machine to which the requester is coupled: and

allowing the requester to assume the identity of said pre-authorized machine to which the requester is coupled after verifying that said requester is authorized, and

based on the requester assuming the identity of said pre-authorized machine, allowing the requester access to the resource.

- 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of preauthorized machines includes a first pre-authorized machine that is pre-authorized to access a first subset of resources at the web server and a second authorized machine that is pre-authorized to access a second subset of resources at the web server, wherein said second subset differs from said first subset.
- (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of preauthorized machines includes a first pre-authorized machine that is pre-authorized to access a first subset of resources at the web server and a second pre-

authorized machine that is pre-authorized to access a second subset of resources at the web server, wherein said second subset overlaps with said first subset.

- (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said first and second subsets are identical
- 11-18. (Canceled).
- (Previously presented) A network element, comprising: a processor;

an authorization database containing logic for execution by the processor, the processor to determine, based on the logic, whether a user is authorized to assume the identity of the network element to gain access to a network resource that the network element is pre-authorized to access;

- a port to couple the network element to a user; and a port to couple the network element to a network resource.
- (Previously presented) The network element of claim 19, wherein the authorization database correlates user identifiers with resources accessible via the network element.
- 21. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

arranging a network element in a network, the network element being preauthorized to access a set of network resources:

receiving, at the network element, a request from a user to connect to the network element;

determining whether the user is authorized to connect to the network element:

if so, allowing the user to assume the identity of the network element; and accessing, by the user, one of the set of network resources that the network

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element is pre-authorized to access, based on the user's assuming the identity of the network element.

- 22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the network element is coupled to one or more network servers providing the set of network resources.
- 23. (Previously presented The method of claim 21, further comprising checking an identity characteristic of the user to determine whether the user is authorized to connect to the network element.